

north  
little  
rock

# PROUD

**INSIDE:**

**WHAT TO DO  
WITH OLE MAIN**

**2020 CENSUS  
COUNT ME IN**

**THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK SIX**

**REVIVING EAST BROADWAY**





# NLR PROUD Features

## 4 What To Do With Ole Main

North Little Rock High School was built in 1929 and described in an issue of the North Little Rock times as “an architectural beauty, adequate to the needs of the school children of North Little Rock for a number of years.” Today, it needs to find a new purpose. Read about the job of the task force as it hopes to provide the North Little Rock School Board with ideas to give the old building a new life.

## 8 Census 2020

North Little Rock residents have a chance to stand up and be counted. In 2010, North Little Rock had 62,304 residents. We hope to have over 70,000 this count. Each resident represents over \$3,300 per year for the next ten years in valuable funding that residents use.

## 10 Economic Development on East Broadway

East Broadway was once a thriving area with restaurants, shops, and industrial areas. Now it's filled with dilapidated buildings and used car lots. There is an effort to bring it back.

## 15 Big Boy stops by Arkansas' railroad town

Union Pacific's Big Boy No 4014 steam locomotive attracted visitors from all over the South as it spent three days in North Little Rock. The trip was in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Trans-Continental Railroad's completions.



On the Cover— Ole Main High School

Photo by Jim Billings.



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# PROUD

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# School Desegregation In North Little Rock

By Cary Bradburn, North Little Rock Heritage Center

Six black teenagers, accompanied by four AME ministers, tried to integrate all-white North Little Rock High School on September 9, 1957. They were shoved back twice near the front door and denied entrance by about a dozen adults and former students. Newspaper accounts described a mob of people who hollered racial insults. No one was injured or arrested, though two young white men were detained by the police long enough to “cool off.”

The North Little Rock School Board had voted in July 1955 to admit black 12th graders to the city’s segregated high school in 1957. But on September 2, 1957, Arkansas Governor Orval E. Faubus dispatched the National Guard to keep “the peace and good order” at Little Rock’s Central High School. An anxious North Little Rock School Board postponed desegregation “indefinitely” on September 3 because of the governor’s action. “We don’t want the National Guard camped out on our doorstep,” one board member told an Arkansas Gazette reporter. The next day, Guardsmen blocked integration at Central.

Richard Lindsey, Gerald Persons, Harold Smith, William Henderson, Eugene Hall, and Frank Henderson, along with a seventh black student, had registered to attend North Little Rock High School in 1957.

Six met with advisors and resolved to attempt entry anyway, despite the board’s delay. “Our folks were with us 100 percent,” said J.D. Webster, one of the four ministers who was joined on September 9 by F.D. Gipson, W.B. Banks, and J.H. Gipson. He blamed the presence of troops at Central for encouraging resistance to the integration of North Little Rock High School.

The New York Times on September 10 featured a front-page photograph of the confrontation near the high school entrance. The site was misidentified as Central.



No action was made again to integrate North Little Rock schools until August 1963 when five black students applied for admission to white

secondary schools. The School Board rejected the applications but announced that integration would begin in fall 1964. Without incident on September 3, 1964, eight black first- and second-graders desegregated Clendenin and Riverside elementary schools. On September 6, 1966, 20 black students desegregated North Little Rock High School.

During a 50-year reunion in 2007, Lindsey, Persons, and Smith symbolically ascended the steps of North Little Rock High School and walked through the front door. 🏛️

## The North Little Rock Six



Eugene Edward Hall



Frank Herman Henderson



William Mack Henderson



Richard Lewis Lindsey



Gerald Allen Persons



Harold Gene Smith





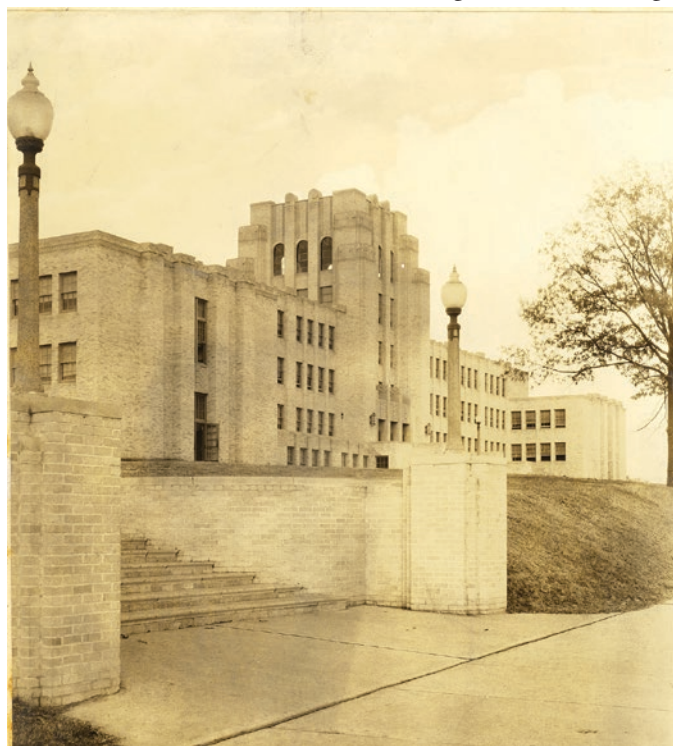
## Fate of Ole Main

In the early 1920s, the population of North Little Rock exploded, and the number of students attending North Little Rock's small Argenta High School was running out of space. The school only had 16 classrooms. In 1917 the school housed 450 students. By the mid-'20s, that number had more than doubled. The school board decided to act, and in 1928 the corner of 22<sup>nd</sup> and Main was selected to be the home of the new North Little Rock High School, designed by Little Rock architect George R. Mann from the same firm that designed Little Rock Central High School. Mann also designed the Arkansas State Capitol, Gazette Building, the Pulaski County Courthouse, and St. Vincent's Hospital. All of the buildings mentioned are on the National Register of Historic Places, including North Little Rock High School.

The History of North Little Rock High School is full of extraordinary moments. From academic success, athletic state championships, to memorable alumni, NLRHS has made its share of news. But one symbol of that success remains. The iconic building has stood the test of time. Described by the November 27th,

1929 issue of the North Little Rock times as "an architectural beauty, adequate to the needs of the school children of North Little Rock for many years." Eighty-five years to be exact! In 1970, the North Little Rock School District closed Scipio Jones High School, the segregated public school for African American students, and North Little Rock High School was split into two fully desegregated schools. The original building was renamed North Little Rock Ole Main, and the new facility was called North Little Rock Northeast. Then in 1990, the school district consolidated the two high schools back into NLRHS with the 9th and 10th grade housed at the former Northeast campus (East Campus) and the 11th and 12th grade housed at the original art deco building that was Ole Main (West Campus). In 1993 the North Little Rock History Commission was able to secure North

Little Rock High School and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2012, due to the growth of the student population, the city of North Little Rock passed a millage to construct a new high school that could encompass all the high school students, as well as, building or renovating the elementary schools in the city. The opening of the new building in 2015 meant that a different purpose needed to be found for the grand old building.





That leads to where the city and school district are today. What to do with what is known as “Ole Main.” In October of 2019, the North Little Rock School District, which owns the building, announced a task force to gather ideas for future use to present to the school board. “We appreciate the importance of Ole Main in our past, but with the leadership of this Task Force, Ole Main can be very important to our future,” said School Board President Tracy Steele. Both Steele and School District Superintendent Bobby Acklin would like to see the building used to house the main offices of the district. Still, both believe there is much more that can also be done with the building. Housing the district’s central office was the original plan when the millage passed, but according to CFO Brian Brown, the matching funds that the district was counting on to remodel Ole Main didn’t come to fruition. “The NLR middle school was declined for partnership funding. The district was expecting about \$40 million. The State of Arkansas said it was not old enough. The district had to use district funds set aside for projects like the Ole Main to make renovations at the middle school. Everything done so far at middle school has been district funded.” Taggart architects have done some initial mock-ups of what the office space could look like and helped estimate the cost of the renovations. The cost to renovate the building is between \$13 and \$15 million.

### Repurposing Old Schools:


The question is: what do you do with them? An old school presents some unique challenges. For one, it is built for a specific use— to teach students in classrooms. It isn’t like a warehouse that has ample open space with multiple possible applications, an empty tablet to create something new. It isn’t an old Main Street office building that can be gutted and turned into retail or apartments. An old school will usually only work as another school of a similar size or as a project for anchor



*“The outside and foundation are as solid today as the day they were laid. The Roof and the HVAC units were replaced or repaired in 2018. But, as with any old building, updating the inside of the structure will take a lot.” —Harrel Hatch NLRSD Maintenance Supervisor*

tenant that needs lots of space and has the money to take on some extensive renovations. Some of the ideas that have already been talked about is offering leased space to off-campus classes for Universities like Harding, UALR, and UAPB or two-year schools like UA Pulaski Tech. Another issue facing the task force is that it is on school grounds, so it rules out any living facility. Conversion into residential space is the most common fate of old school buildings across the country. It makes sense if you think about how schools are laid out and the floor plan. If it had a gym or auditorium, it could become an amenity space for tenants.

It’s a sensible path in making a project work. But another issue facing the task force is that it is on school grounds of the new high school so that it may rule out any living facility. Also, the wide halls and open stairways of older school buildings can be hurdles for developers. Paula Lively, task force chair, hopes to have recommendations to the board by October of 2020. But they need the community to help

If you have any ideas, you can attend the task force meetings or reach out to the school district directly. The task force will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 4 pm. Locations may change, you can check with the school district for meeting places. 

# Metroplan and the City to Jump Start two North Little Rock neighborhoods

For the past seven years, a planning process has been focusing on the Levy and Park Hill Neighborhoods. If successful, the result will likely be increased economic activity and increased property values in the town centers. Funded through Metroplan (the Metropolitan Planning Organization) and the City, a consultant led the community through a visioning process to devise a design guideline and form-based code overlay as an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. This funding came from federal agencies encouraging urban areas to consider how zoning and development regulations can make unique places in our community more enjoyable for our residents. This effort was brought about by the recognition that our society is automobile-dependent, and our lifestyles are hurting community health. Increased density of core areas will increase walking in those neighborhoods and help improve community health. The goal is to encourage the redevelopment of those areas as places to live, work, and play in a compact urban setting.

This was presented back in 2013 with six goals in mind:

## Six Project Goals

**Goal area 1:** Provide transportation choices and enhance mobility/walkability

**Goal area 2:** Increase housing and development/land use diversity/mixed-use buildings

**Goal area 3:** Enhance economic development

**Goal area 4:** Support existing communities/activity center/efficient growth

**Goal area 5:** Support environmentally-responsible development

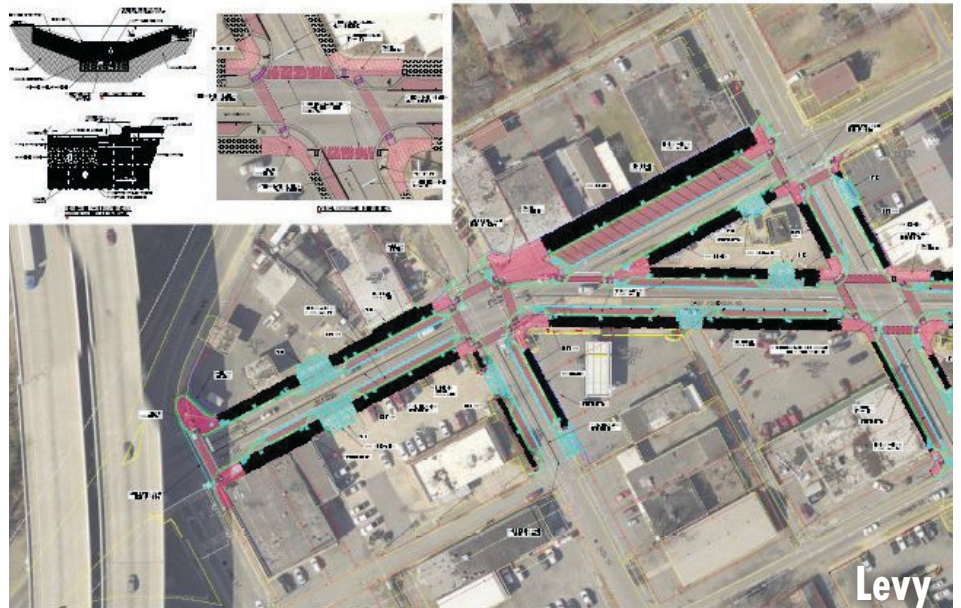
**Goal area 6:** Quality places and healthy communities

There were eight applicants when Metroplan opened the process to central Arkansas cities. There were five neighborhoods selected: Bryant, 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Little Rock, Conway, and Levy on Camp Robinson and Park Hill on JFK/Hwy 107. Since then, two other areas were selected, one each in Vilonia and Mayflower. The keys to the projects are to make the spaces more walkable, family-friendly, inviting for new businesses, and to strengthen neighborhoods. Both Levy and Park Hill already have strong neighborhoods that are unique and inclusive, but to make the areas more vibrant to reflect the neighborhoods, some major infrastructure work is needed. So to achieve this, the City, Metroplan, and ArDOT (Arkansas Department of Transportation) have made the focus of these projects to improve the infrastructure of these areas by milling and repaving the roads, creating landscape buffers, narrowing road lanes and widening sidewalks. These, along with new zoning requirements, are designed to improve the foot traffic and beautify the areas.

Here is a closer look at each project:

## Levy

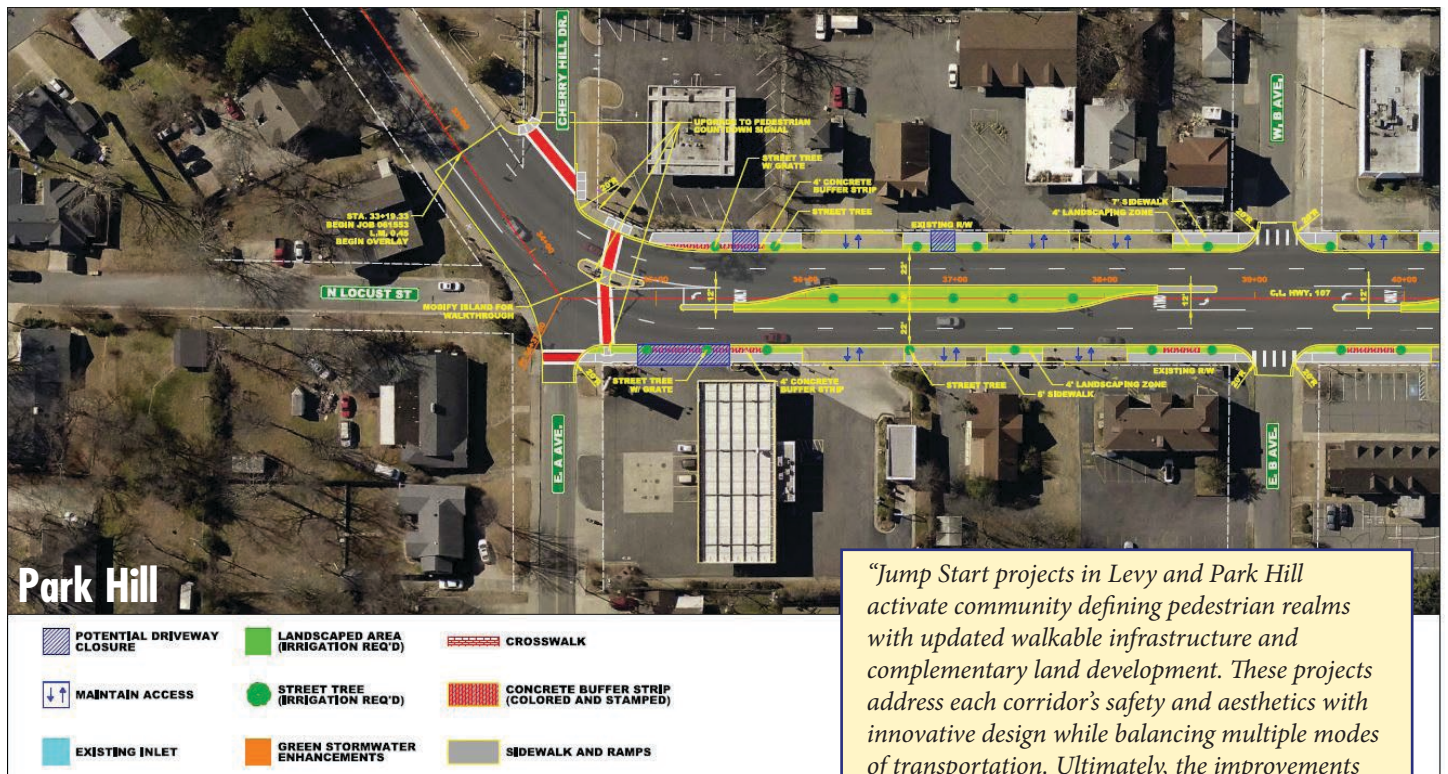
The **Levy** project is being engineered by the firm of Crafton Tull. The plans are 95% complete, and it is set to break ground in the second quarter of this year, pending ArDOT approval. The main area of the Levy project will focus on the corridor between 33<sup>rd</sup> St. to 37<sup>th</sup> St. and parts of the side roads that branch off the area. One of the great features of the area is the Levy Trail. This project is going to help connect the main road to the trail to encourage a more walkable, neighborhoods. Below is a section of the plans for Levy. The full set is on the City's website.





## Park Hill

In **Park Hill**, the stretch between A and H streets will get a much-needed facelift. With 31,000 cars per day traveling on JFK Blvd, the road has deteriorated, creating potholes and drainage issues. As in Levy, the sidewalks sit directly next to the road creating a hazardous walking area for pedestrians. The project is nearing the 60% planning stage. Garver Engineering was selected to prepare the project. The plans will move quickly to completion once the 60% plans are approved. The project could begin construction this summer if ArDOT approves the plans, and no major changes are made. Below is a section of the Park Hill plans.



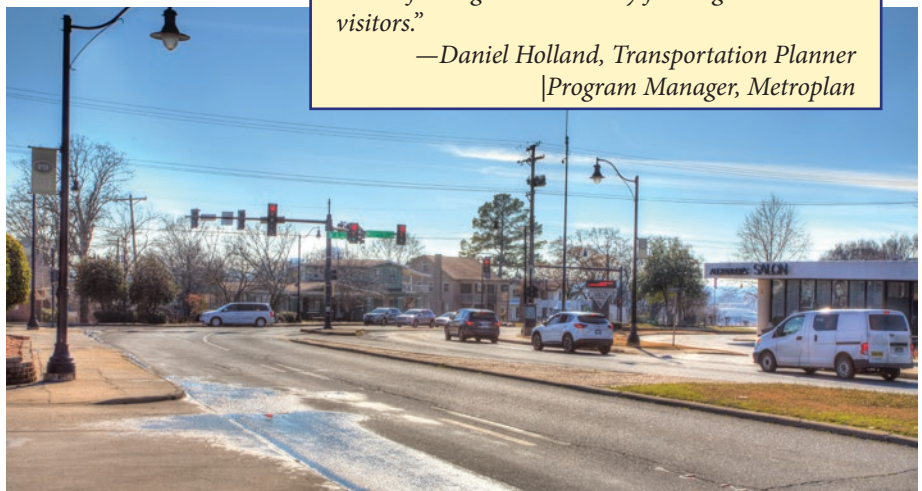
*"Jump Start projects in Levy and Park Hill activate community defining pedestrian realms with updated walkable infrastructure and complementary land development. These projects address each corridor's safety and aesthetics with innovative design while balancing multiple modes of transportation. Ultimately, the improvements aim to foster greater livability for neighbors and visitors."*

—Daniel Holland, Transportation Planner  
|Program Manager, Metroplan

Both plans will consist of narrowing of the lanes, widening pedestrian areas, and beautifying the landscape.

For any questions on the Jump Start programs or copies of the proposed plans, go to [www.nlr.ar.gov/jumpstart](http://www.nlr.ar.gov/jumpstart).

**NLRPROUD**





# Census Day 2020

April 1, 2020, is getting closer. The North Little Rock Mayor's 2020 Census Complete Count Committee (CCC) continues to meet regularly to brainstorm creative strategies to make sure that our city has a **COMPLETE COUNT**. More than \$675 billion in federal funds are distributed to tribal, state, and local governments based on the number of residents that each has. Therefore, a **COMPLETE COUNT** is critical for the future funding of our city.

The top sixteen large federal assistance programs that distribute funds based census derived data are as follows:

1. Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid)
2. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
3. Medicare Part B (Supplemental Medical Insurance) - Physicians Fee Schedule Services
4. Highway Planning and Construction
5. Section 8 Housing Vouchers
6. Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies
7. National School Lunch Program
8. Special Education Grants (IDEA)
9. State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP)
10. Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program (Project-Based)
11. Head Start/Early Head Start
12. Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, Children (WIC)
13. Foster Care (Title IV-E)
14. Health Center Programs (Community, Migrant, Homeless, Public Housing)
15. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
16. Child Care and Development Fund – Entitlement




In the 2010 Census, the city of North Little Rock had a count of 62,304 residents. The Mayor's CCC has a goal of 70,000 plus for the 2020 Census, and our tagline will be **COUNT ME IN 2020**. Funding for each person is approximately \$3,300 per year over the next ten years, which is a lot of money per person per year for our city. If you fail to fill out the census, the city will lose money to fund valuable programs. For the first time, there will be three different ways to fill out the census: online, by phone, or by mail.

Beginning March 12, the Census Bureau will be mailing a postcard to each place of residence. If no response is given online, another postcard will be mailed in early April. If still no response, a third postcard will be sent in mid to late April. If still no response, a paper census will be mailed in May. If there still is no response at that point, then the Census Bureau will begin visiting homes with Enumerators to collect the census information.

All responses are **CONFIDENTIAL** and protected under Title 13 of the U.S.

Code. This information of citizens or noncitizens will **NEVER** be shared with immigration enforcement agencies, like ICE, or allow it to be used to determine their eligibility for government benefits. The results of any census data are reported in statistical format **ONLY**. Also, under Title 13, all Census Bureau employees swear a lifetime oath to protect respondent data. It is a felony for any Census Bureau employee to disclose any confidential census information. **ALL DATA** will be kept **CONFIDENTIAL**.

A Census 2020 sample questionnaire is on the city of North Little Rock website [nlr.ar.gov](http://nlr.ar.gov). The sample is found under the link 2020 Census. One crucial aspect to know about the 2020 Census questionnaire, there will **NOT** be a question concerning citizenship.

**ALL** residents of North Little Rock must fill out the Census form, either online, by phone, or through the mail to ensure that our city receives our portion of the \$675 **BILLION** that we all benefit from daily. For more information, contact Steve Shields [sshields@nlr.ar.gov](mailto:sshields@nlr.ar.gov). 



# Día del Censo 2020

El 1, de abril de 2020, está cada vez más cerca. El Comité de Conteo Completo del Censo 2020 del Alcalde de North Little Rock (CCC), continúa reuniéndose regularmente para idear estrategias creativas para asegurarse de que nuestra ciudad tenga un censo completo. El Comité de Conteo Completo consiste de individuos voluntarios establecidos por gobiernos tribales, estatales y locales para aumentar la CONCIENCIA y MOTIVAR a los residentes para responder al Censo de 2020. Más de \$675 mil millones en fondos federales son distribuidos a gobiernos tribales, estatales y locales basados en el número de residentes que cada uno tiene. Por lo tanto, un CONTEO COMPLETO es fundamental para la futura financiación de nuestra ciudad.

Los dieciséis primeros programas grandes de asistencia federal que distribuyen fondos basados en datos derivados del censo son los siguientes:

1. Programa de Asistencia Médica (Medicaid)
2. Programa Suplementario de Asistencia (SNAP)
3. Medicare parte B (Seguro Médico Suplementario)- Servicios de Programación de Tarifas de Médicos.
4. Planificación y construcción de autopistas.
5. Sección 8 de Vales de Vivienda
6. Subvenciones de Título I a Agencias de Educación Locales
7. Programa Nacional de Almuerzo Escolar
8. Becas de Educación Especial (IDEA)
9. Programa Estatal de Seguro Médico Para Niños (S-CHIP)
10. Sección 8 Programa de Pagos de Asistencia de Vivienda (Basado en Proyectos)
11. Head Start/Early Head Start
12. Programe de Nutrición Suplementaria para Mujeres, Infantes y Niños (WIC)
13. Cuidado de Crianza (Título IV-E)
14. Programas de Centros de Salud (Comunidad, Migrantes, Sin Hogar, Vivienda Publica)
15. Programa de Asistencia de Energía para Hogares de Bajos (LIHEAP)

## 16. Fondo de Cuidado y Desarrollo Infantil- Derechos

En el Censo de 2010, la ciudad de North Little Rock obtuvo un censo total de 62,304 residentes. El Comité de Conteo Completo del Alcalde (CCC) tiene una meta de más de 70,000 residentes para el Censo de 2020 y nuestro lema será CUENTEME EN 2020. El financiamiento para cada persona es de aproximadamente \$3,300 dólares por año durante los próximos diez años, lo cual es una gran cantidad de dinero por persona y año para nuestra ciudad. Si no completa el censo, la ciudad perderá dinero para financiar programas valiosos. Por primera vez, habrá tres modos diferentes de completar el censo: en línea, por teléfono o por correo.


Comenzando entre el 12 y 20 de marzo, la Oficina del Censo enviara una tarjeta postal a cada lugar de residencia con instrucciones sobre cómo conectarse en línea para completar el censo. Si no se da respuesta en línea, otra tarjeta postal será enviada por correo a principios de abril. Si aún no hay respuesta, se enviara una tercera tarjeta postal a mediados o finales de abril. Si no hay respuesta a la 3ª postal, se enviara un censo en papel en algún momento de mayo. Si todavía no hay respuesta en ese punto, la Oficina del Censo comenzara a visitar los hogares con los empadronadores para coleccionar la información de censo.

Todas las respuestas que la Oficina del Censo colecciona a través de residentes que llenan su Censo 2020 por internet, teléfono o correo son CONFIDENCIALES y están protegidas bajo el Título 13 del Código de los Estados Unidos. Esta información de ciudadanos o no ciudadanos NUNCA será compartida con agencias de aplicación de la ley de inmigración, como ICE, agencias de aplicación de la ley, como el FBI o la policía, o permitir que se utilice para determinar su elegibilidad para beneficios del gobierno. Los resultados de los datos del censo son reportados solamente en formato estadístico. Además, bajo el Título 13, todos los empleados de Oficina del Censo juran un juramento de toda la vida para proteger los datos



de los encuestados. Es una felonía para cualquier empleado de la Oficina del Censo que revele cualquier información confidencial del censo durante o después del empleo, y la pena por divulgación injusta es de hasta 5 años de prisión y/o una multa de \$250,000. Como se puede ver, TODOS LOS DATOS se mantendrán CONFIDENCIALES.

Un cuestionario de muestra del Censo 2020 se encuentra en el sitio web de la ciudad de North Little Rock [nlr.ar.gov](http://nlr.ar.gov). La muestra se encuentra en el enlace 2020 Censo. Un aspecto crucial para saber sobre el cuestionario de Censo de 2020 es que no habrá una pregunta acerca de la ciudadanía.

TODOS los residentes de North Little Rock deben llenar el formulario del Censo, ya sea en línea, por teléfono o por correo para asegurarse de que nuestra ciudad reciba nuestra porción de los \$675 MILLONES de los que todos nos beneficiamos diariamente. Para más información puede contactar a Steve Shields al correo electrónico [sshields@nlr.ar.gov](mailto:sshields@nlr.ar.gov). 





# Reviving East Broadway

## City Council Moves Forward With Economic Study

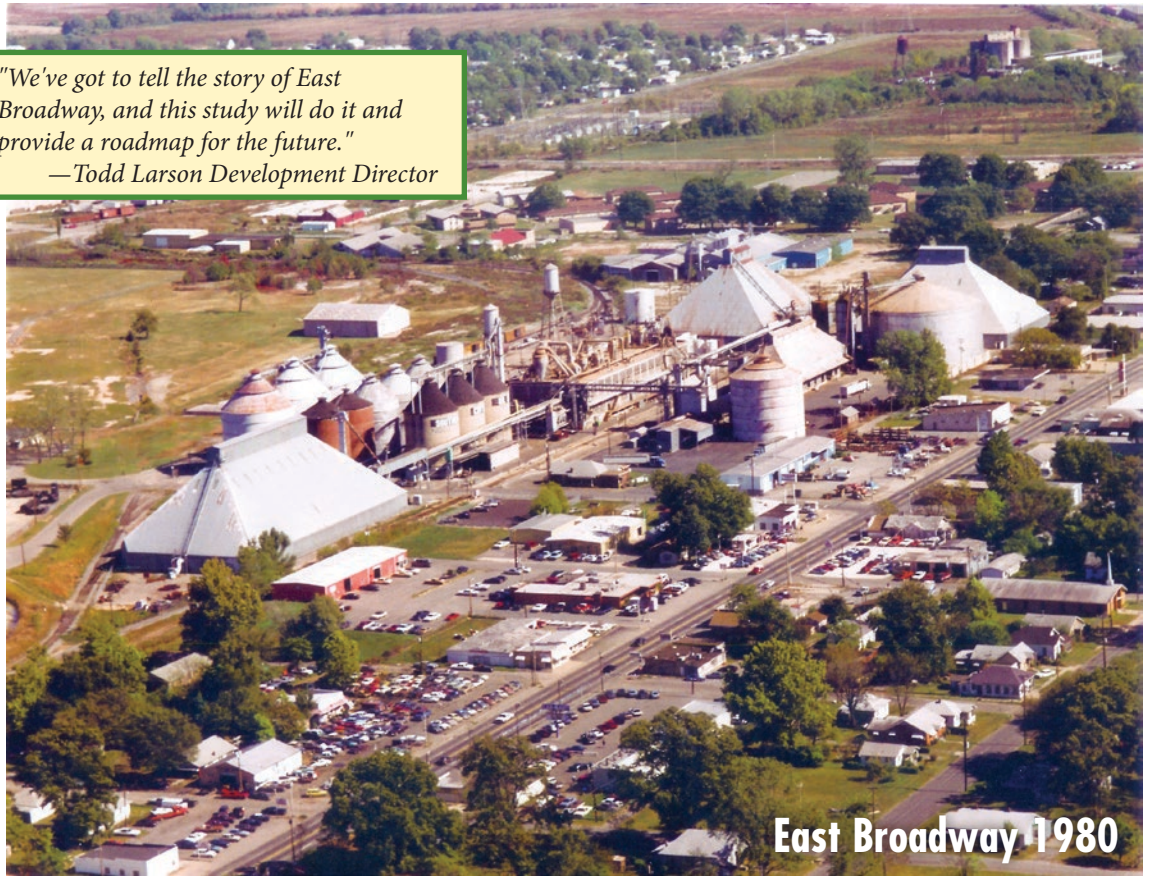
In late 2019 the North Little City Council passed a resolution put forth by Council Members Linda Robinson and Maurice Taylor to perform an economic study of the East Broadway Area. This was once a busy section of North Little Rock that connected the city to Memphis. There were unique restaurants and shops, as well as thriving industrial areas. But as times changed, industrial needs were rerouted to other areas or just went away. Now filled with dilapidated buildings and used car lots, East Broadway is not what it once was. There is a resurgence beginning to unfold, but a deeper dive into the area is needed.

The city has once again reached out to the Arkansas Economic Development Institute housed at the University of Arkansas Little Rock. In the past, the AEDI has assisted the city in other areas, such as downtown.

North Little Rock, a city of roughly 65,911 by 2017 Census estimates, is a vibrant community rich in restaurants, the arts, shopping, and sports. Within the city is a two

*"We've got to tell the story of East Broadway, and this study will do it and provide a roadmap for the future."*

*—Todd Larson Development Director*



Census Block area that covers East Broadway from Interstate 30 east until it intersects with Hwy 165. The area is a unique neighborhood that combines fast-food restaurants, local and national motels, many small businesses, and almost two dozen manufacturing facilities. According to Michael Collins with AEDI, the purpose of the study is to provide North Little Rock and its leadership a reliable, data-driven assessment of the economic development potential

of the East Broadway area. They will perform an in-depth, comprehensive evaluation of the city from Interstate 30 to Hwy 165 (near Shotgun Dan's and Don's Weaponry). The study will look at six key areas:

1. **Population Patterns** regarding age, gender, average family size, income levels, and the number of school-age children,
2. **Educational Profiles** to identify educational gaps that prohibit hiring for in-demand industries and their occupations,
3. **Land Use, Housing Trends, and Sustainable Growth** to provide information regarding rental property and identify best practices for addressing vacant lots and expanding workforce housing,







#### 4. Retail Demand and Leakage

**Analysis** to identify areas of strength and weakness in the current mix of businesses and suggest new approaches that might bring more shoppers and employees to the area,

**5. Workforce Availability** to define the most common occupations in the area and identify training available to workers willing to upgrade their skill sets to earn higher incomes

**6. Commercial and Industry Usage** to identify site-selection opportunities for in-state and out-of-state employers.

#### 7. Other Items that AEDI may deem necessary for a complete report

The first phase of the study will be working on the data collection; that phase should take six to eight weeks to complete. Phase two of the study will begin with community engagement meetings. Public involvement is key to this study because no one knows the area better than the residents and local businesses. These meetings will be set up by the AEDI team with assistance from Todd Larson, Development Director for North Little Rock and

*"This will be a non judgmental assessment shaped by data and the community. Not everyone can be a Dallas or New York, but you can make your neighborhood unique"*

—Michael Collins Arkansas Economic Development Institute.

Dan Scott with Neighborhood Services.

The value of this area is apparent to companies such as Safe Foods, Bruce Oakley, Inc, and Hum's Hardware. Safe Foods is a biotechnology company focused on food processing. Bruce Oakley, Inc, is a major transportation company that is building their national headquarters in the area, as well as, refurbishing the Buckeye rail

facility visible off of Broadway. Hum's Hardware chose to stay in the area and build their beautiful new facility on the corner of East Broadway and Hwy 165. These companies, as well as others, have already seen the value in the area, and more is to come. Providing the data and community involvement studies will give the North Little Rock Development team the detailed ammunition to continue to attract more and more businesses to the area which will also bring in more restaurants and housing opportunities. 





# The North Little Rock Electric Department (NLRED)

The North Little Rock Electric Department (NLRED) is a department of the City of North Little Rock and has been a consumer-owned utility for over 100 years. Currently, NLRED is Arkansas' largest municipal electric utility, providing reliable service to more than 38,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in the cities of North Little Rock and Sherwood as well as Pulaski County.

NLRED relies on several different energy resources to comprise our power portfolio, recognizing that greater diversity in our power supply contributes to higher reliability and more stable prices for our customers.

Hydropower is America's leading renewable energy resource. Of all the renewable power sources, it's the most reliable and efficient. On average,



Hydro Plant



almost fourteen percent of the entire City's electricity use is provided by renewable power from the Murray Hydro Generating Plant, located on the Arkansas River at the base of the Big Dam Bridge.

**When an outage occurs,** our top priority is to restore your power quickly and safely. NLRED mobilizes all available crews and equipment and will ask for assistance from other utilities in our mutual assistance program and hire outside contractors if necessary.

**During the restoration of electrical equipment due to storm damage,** NLRED

works to restore power to equipment that feeds the largest number of

customers first and continues until all customers have power. This could include high-voltage lines and structures, substations, or switch station equipment. After this damage is repaired, we work to restore the highest number of customers, keeping safety in mind, repairing main feeders/circuits in communities, neighborhood lateral lines, and then work to restore individual customer's transformers and service lines.

**Outage Reporting:** 1-888-728-4004 or [www.nlrelectric.com/outage](http://www.nlrelectric.com/outage)

**Customer Service:** 501-975-8888 or [custserv@nlr.ar.gov](mailto:custserv@nlr.ar.gov)

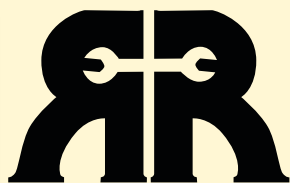
**Website:** [www.nlrelectric.com](http://www.nlrelectric.com)

**Social Media:** [www.facebook.com/NLRElectric](https://www.facebook.com/NLRElectric)

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Send in your requests using our Report and Repair system and get email confirmation of when your issue has been addressed. Follow the "report a problem" link on our homepage or download the app.

United States  
Census  
2020

The 2020 Census is right around the corner, and North Little Rock wants everyone to count. Check out this two minute video on our website [nlr.ar.gov](http://nlr.ar.gov). Also if you are interested in working for the U.S. Census Bureau, check out that information as well.



Legend has it that North Little Rock High School is haunted. Check out the story produced by NLRTV students back in 2003. Leonard Chamblee was our mentor and tutor for the students. Check it out at [youtu.be/5GB3NVndEnU](https://youtu.be/5GB3NVndEnU)



# Get to know your NLR Employees


## Condorious “Condo” Breedlove-Director of Sanitation

In mid-2018, the city of North Little Rock was looking to replace retiring sanitation director Harold Ford. Ford had been the sanitation director for the past 17 years. Chief of Staff Danny Bradley said, “Replacing Harold is going to be a tough job, but Condo has the experience and personality to do the job.” The sanitation department is one of the most important departments for the residents of North Little Rock; it handles curbside garbage, bulk item pick up, and the famous curbside leaf vacuum trucks (seriously it has its own Facebook fan page created by residents). One of the many great things about living in North Little Rock is that these services are at no fee to residents, unlike the surrounding communities that charge for these services.

Condo has worked for the city for the last 17 months after coming over



from the city of Jacksonville, where he served as Sanitation Superintendent. All in all, he has worked in the sanitation field for almost 21 years. He is an example of hard work paying off, he started as a driver and worked his

way up to being the Director for the city of North Little Rock, and the city is excited to have him. Condo oversees a staff of 45 full and part-time employees and a large amount of equipment. “I think the most difficult part of my job is keeping the equipment up and running so that we can take care of the needs of North Little Rock.” Condo is a father of two and has nine grandchildren all in the North Little Rock/Little Rock area. Asked about his favorite thing about working for the city, Breedlove stated, “The level of commitment and teamwork of each department working together to resolve issues that crop up each day within the city. I enjoy the helpful and friendly atmosphere of working with the people within the city. I appreciate the opportunity of being able to serve the residents of North Little Rock, Arkansas.” 

## Ember Strange-Director of Finance


Next to the mayor, the most critical office in any city may be the Finance Department. Without strong leadership and someone with strong financial acumen, any city would have a tough time. North Little Rock is very lucky to have a leader the caliber of Ember Strange. Ember leads a team of eight that is responsible for taking care of all the City’s tax revenues, cash management (including investments) cash receipts, employee benefits (including non-uniform pension), and financial statement preparation. On top of that, her department assists all the department heads with budget preparation, researching expenditures and providing documentation related to such, and assisting with budget management throughout the year.

“I enjoy municipal government accounting. It is a special niche that I enjoy the challenges of. I am enjoying



getting to know everyone and learning our processes. I am an extrovert accountant. Meeting new people is one of my favorite things. Everyone here is so nice. I love the team atmosphere, which is North Little Rock. I would say that there are several challenging aspects of my position. First of all, my staff and I have to ensure that we keep

up with new accounting standards, payroll laws, etc. Our purpose is to safeguard and properly account for the City of North Little Rock’s assets, and this is a responsibility that I do not take lightly. Second, as with any new position, it can be a challenge to learn about your employees and co-workers. To operate at the most efficient and effective level possible, you have to understand that every person isn’t the same. I think it is important to get to know people and their personalities to enhance the communication process. This is something that can take time,” said Strange.

Ember and her husband Curt have a daughter Ava (7), and she has two stepsons, Mitch (23) and Cole (19). She came to North Little Rock from the City of Little Rock, where she worked for 11 years as the Assistant Finance Director & Comptroller. 



# Argenta Plaza opens to 10,000

The newest addition to downtown North Little Rock's landscape, Argenta Plaza, successfully opened recently to 10,000 festival-goers as part of the city's annual Northern Lights Festival. Besides celebrating the gorgeous new community space, the festival got everyone in the holiday spirit with the lighting of the new 42-foot Christmas tree, carolers, food trucks, holiday selfie station, holiday vendors, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, horse carriage rides, live music and even a firework show. NLR







## Big Boy visits North Little Rock

**N**orth Little Rock was built as a railroad town. What better way to celebrate its rail history than with a visit from the largest steam locomotive ever made. Union Pacific's Big Boy No. 4014 steam locomotive left Cheyenne, Wyoming, for a tour across the southwestern United States to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Trans-Continental Railroad's completion.

The Big Boy made whistle stops in Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Arkansas before heading back to Wyoming, which is where it is based. North Little Rock was lucky as the locomotive

arrived on a Wednesday and left on a Friday, giving residents a long time to soak it all in. Thursday, local dignitaries were invited to have breakfast and tour the inside of the vintage cars, which included several sleeper cars, a dining car, and two observation cars.


Twenty-five Big Boys were built for Union Pacific to handle the mountainous terrain between Ogden, Utah, and Cheyenne, Wyoming. The engines weigh 1.2 million pounds. Only eight Big Boys still exist, but 4014 is the only operating one. The rest are museum displays.

Union Pacific has been in North Little Rock since the December 1982

merger with Missouri Pacific and Western Pacific. Before that, railroads with significant presence in North Little Rock have been Memphis & Little Rock, Little Rock & Fort Smith, Cairo & Fulton, St. Louis Iron Mountain & Fulton, Missouri Pacific, St. Louis Southwestern (Cotton Belt Route), St. Louis Arkansas & Texas, Little Rock Mississippi River & Texas, Choctaw & Memphis, Choctaw Oklahoma & Gulf, Chicago Rock Island & Pacific. Union Pacific employs around 1,000 people in North Little Rock and approximately 2,600 in Arkansas. 

## Privilege/Business License

**T**he City of North Little Rock requires **all businesses** to obtain a privilege/business license to conduct business within the city limits. If your business is operated out of your home, you are also required to have a home occupation permit. You must apply for this privilege/business license at the City Clerk's Office at 300 Main Street (City Hall).

Examples, but not limited to those required to be licensed: Individuals or companies that own property in North Little Rock (including home vacation rentals) with the intent to rent or lease property, Mobile Food Vendors, and online retail businesses. If you have any questions regarding privilege/business licenses or any other required documents about receiving a privilege/business license, please call 501-975-8617. A zoning certificate is required for all privilege/business license applications (including home-based and out of city) and change of address (physical location within the city). 



# North Little Rock Contact Information

<b>Mayor</b>	<b>Joe A. Smith</b>	<b>975-8601</b>	<b>mayor@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>City Clerk and Treasurer</b>	<b>Diane Whitbey</b>	<b>975-8617</b>	<b>Dwhitbey@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>City Attorney</b>	<b>Amy Fields</b>	<b>975-3755</b>	<b>nlrlegal@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Judge (Traffic)</b>	<b>Judge Randy Morley</b>	<b>791-8562</b>	<b>judy.west@nlrpolice.org</b>
<b>Judge (Criminal/Civil)</b>	<b>Judge Paula Juels Jones</b>	<b>791-8559</b>	<b>vicki.weed@nlrpolice.org</b>

## City Council

<b>Ward 1 Council Member</b>	<b>Debi Ross</b>	<b>753-0733</b>	<b>dross@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Ward 1 Council Member</b>	<b>Beth White</b>	<b>758-2738</b>	<b>bwhite@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Ward 2 Council Member</b>	<b>Maurice Taylor</b>	<b>690-6444</b>	<b>mtaylor@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Ward 2 Council Member</b>	<b>Linda Robinson</b>	<b>945-8820</b>	<b>lrobinson@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Ward 3 Council Member</b>	<b>Steve Baxter</b>	<b>804-0928</b>	<b>sbaxter@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Ward 3 Council Member</b>	<b>Ron Harris</b>	<b>758-2877</b>	<b>ronharris@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Ward 4 Council Member</b>	<b>Charlie Hight</b>	<b>944-0670</b>	<b>chight@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Ward 4 Council Member</b>	<b>Jane Ginn</b>	<b>749-5344</b>	<b>jginn@nlr.ar.gov</b>

## Departments

<b>Airport</b>	<b>Clay Rogers</b>	<b>835-5654</b>	<b>crogers@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Animal Control</b>	<b>David Miles</b>	<b>791-8577</b>	<b>dmiles@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Code Enforcement</b>	<b>Tom Wadley</b>	<b>791-8581</b>	<b>nlrcodeenforcement@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Commerce</b>	<b>Mary Beth Bowman</b>	<b>975-8881</b>	<b>mbowman@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>Jim Billings</b>	<b>975-8833</b>	<b>jbillings@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Community Development</b>	<b>Melissa Ervin</b>	<b>340-5342</b>	<b>mervin@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>Todd Larson</b>	<b>371-0116</b>	<b>tl@nlredc.com</b>
<b>Electric Dept.</b>	<b>Scott Springer</b>	<b>975-8888</b>	<b>custserv@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Emergency Services</b>	<b>Leonard Montgomery</b>	<b>340-5365</b>	<b>leonard.montgomery@nlrpolice.org</b>
<b>Engineering</b>	<b>Chris Wilbourn</b>	<b>371-8345</b>	<b>cwilbourn@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>External Affairs</b>	<b>Margaret Powell</b>	<b>975-8605</b>	<b>mpowell@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Ember Strange</b>	<b>975-8802</b>	<b>nlrfinance@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Fire</b>	<b>Chief Gerald Tucker</b>	<b>340-5377</b>	<b>gtucker@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Fit 2 Live</b>	<b>Isaac Henry</b>	<b>975-8780</b>	<b>ihenry@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Human Resources</b>	<b>Betty Anderson</b>	<b>975-8855</b>	<b>banderson@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Information &amp; Technology</b>	<b>John Barber</b>	<b>975-8888</b>	<b>jbarber@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Neighborhood Services</b>	<b>Dan Scott</b>	<b>791-8500</b>	<b>nlrneighborhoodserv@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Parks and Recreation</b>	<b>Terry Hartwick</b>	<b>791-8538</b>	<b>parksandrec@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Planning</b>	<b>Shawn Spencer</b>	<b>975-8835</b>	<b>sspencer@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Police</b>	<b>Chief Mike Davis</b>	<b>771-7101</b>	<b>nlrpd@nlrpolice.org</b>
<b>Safety</b>	<b>Kenny Stephens</b>	<b>951-2397</b>	<b>kastephens@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Sanitation</b>	<b>Condo Breedlove</b>	<b>371-8340</b>	<b>nlrsanitation@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Special Projects/Census</b>	<b>Steve Shields</b>	<b>975-3737</b>	<b>sshields@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Senior Citizens Center</b>	<b>Bernadette Gunn Rhodes</b>	<b>975-4297</b>	<b>brhodes@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Street</b>	<b>Patrick Lane</b>	<b>340-5356</b>	<b>plane@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Traffic Services</b>	<b>Chris Wilbourn</b>	<b>340-5352</b>	<b>cwilbourn@nlr.ar.gov</b>
<b>Vehicle Maintenance</b>	<b>Kenny Brock</b>	<b>340-5371</b>	<b>kbrock@nlr.ar.gov</b>
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**Emergency dial - 911**